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16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words)

The publication is a collection of 10 analytical and speculative essays on the international political effects of the spread of nuclear weapons written by 10 eminent American scholars. The first essay, written by a scientist, analyzes what is technically feasible in the development or acquisition of nuclear weapons and delivery systems by states now without them. The following eight essays, written on the assumption that 12 additional nations join the nuclear weapons club between the present and the mid-1990s discuss: effects on North-South issues, the effects on regional conflicts in South Asia and in the Middle East; the likely reactions of the People's Republic of China and of the Soviet Union to the spread of nuclear weapons; the possibilities and implications of terrorist groups acquiring nuclear weapons; the impact on strategic concepts and planning; and the effects on basic concepts and practices in the conduct of international relations. A final essay weighs the adequacy of present analytical tools and methods to deal with the subject of future nuclear weapons proliferation and suggests some new approaches to research and analysis. The essays were written as the basis for a colloquium attended by 50 govt

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